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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 – 11, 13 – 20, 22 – 29, and 31 - 43 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 19, 28 and 37-43 are amended. No new matter is added by the amendments, which are supported throughout the specification and figures. In particular, the amendments to claims 40-43 are supported in the specification at page 8, lines 18-21. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's assistance in evaluating the claims and specification in the telephonic interview conducted on July 19, 2006.

Claims 40-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 40-43 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, the value for expressing the distance for every predetermined compositional unit is *composed of twenty four bits*, and the *a blending coefficient is defined using successive predetermined bits of the twenty four bits*. It is respectfully submitted that the specification at least at page 8, lines 18-21, provides support for this feature. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

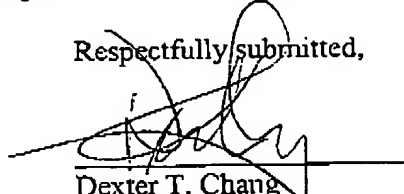
Furthermore, the independent claims 1, 10, 19, 28, and 37-43 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and therefore it is respectfully requested that this application proceed to issue.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1, 2, 4 – 11, 13 – 20, 22 – 29, and 31 - 43, consisting of independent claims 1, 10, 19, 28 and 37 - 43, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should

consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he or she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Dexter T. Chang  
Reg. No. 44,071

**CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304**

Telephone: (212) 940-8800

Fax: (212) 940-8986/8987

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